

Committee Meetings

FOOD SECURITY ACT AMENDMENTS; BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development and Research approved for full Committee action, as amended, H.R. 11907, to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to ensure the availability of funds to provide technical assistance for certain conservation programs of the Department of Agriculture.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing to review Biotechnology in Agriculture. Testimony was heard from David Hegwood, Special Counsel to the Secretary, USDA; Lester M. Crawford, Deputy Commissioner, Food and Drugs, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services; and Stephen L. Johnson, Assistant Administrator, Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances, EPA.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS; SUBALLOCATION OF BUDGET ALLOCATIONS REPORTS

Committee on Appropriations: Ordered reported the following appropriations for fiscal year 2004; Homeland Security; and Military Construction.

The Committee also approved the following: Revised Suballocation of Budget Allocations Report, Fiscal Year 2003; and the Suballocation of Budget Allocations Report, Fiscal Year 2004.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies approved for full Committee action the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies appropriations for Fiscal Year 2004.

ULLICO SCANDAL—IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. WORKERS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Held a hearing on "The ULLICO Scandal and its Implications for U.S. Workers." Testimony was heard from Warren E. Nowlin, Partner, Williams Mullen and Damon Silvers, Special Counsel to the Chairman, ULLICO Inc.

In failing to respond to questions, Robert A. Georgine, former President, Chairman and CEO, ULLICO Inc., invoked constitutional privileges.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH- FAIRNESS ACT

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing on H.R. 1583, Occupational Safety and Health-Fairness Act of 2003, focusing on Small Business and Workplace Safety. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Began consideration of H.R. 2473, Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003.

Will continue tomorrow.

FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT— BACKGROUND CHECKS AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing on the role of FCRA in employee background checks and the collection of medical information. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SECTION 8 HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity continued hearings on Section 8 Housing Assistance Program: Promoting Decent Affordable Housing for Families and Individuals who Rent. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FEDERAL DEBT MANAGEMENT—ARE AGENCIES USING COLLECTION TOOLS EFFECTIVELY?

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Efficiency and Financial Management held a hearing on "Federal Debt Management—Are Agencies Using Collection Tools Effectively?" Testimony was heard from Richard L. Gregg, Commissioner, Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury; William H. Campbell, Assistant Secretary, Management, Department of Veterans Affairs; Theresa S. Shaw, Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid, Department of Education; and a public witness.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on International Relations: Ordered reported H. Res. 277, expressing support for freedom in Hong Kong.

The Committee also unfavorably reported H. Res. 260, requesting the President to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution documents

or other materials in the President's possession relating to Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS FUTURE

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Europe held a hearing on the Future of Transatlantic Relations: A View from Europe. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RESTORATION ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property held a hearing on H.R. 2344, Intellectual Property Restoration Act of 2003. Testimony was heard from MaryBeth Peters, Register of Copyrights, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 1616, Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Land Exchange Act; and H.R. 1964, Highland Stewardship Act. Testimony was heard from Representatives Lewis of Georgia, Frelinghuysen, Garrett, Kelly and Saxton; Randy Jones, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; David Tenny, Deputy Under Secretary, Natural Resources and the Environment, USDA; and public witnesses.

DEATH TAX REPEAL PERMANENCY ACT

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a modified closed rule providing 1 of debate in the House on H.R. 8, Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act of 2003. The rule provides for consideration of the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution, if offered by Representative Pomeroy or his designee, which shall be considered as read and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in the report. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives Dunn, Leach, Pomeroy and Hooley of Oregon.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION AND IRS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Committee on Rules: Committee granted, by voice vote a modified closed rule providing 1 hour of debate in the House on H.R. 1528, Taxpayer Protection and IRS Accountability Act of 2003. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of

a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, as modified by the amendment printed in Part A of the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the bill, as amended. The rule provides for consideration of the amendment printed in Part B of the report, if offered by Representative Rangel or his designee, which shall be considered as read and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in Part B of the report. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representative Portman and Visclosky.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT

Committee on Rules: Heard testimony from Chairman Boehner and Representatives Andrews, Woolsey, Hinojosa, Kind and Kucinich, but action was deferred on H.R. 660, Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2003.

TASK FORCE REPORT—IMPROVE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY FOR VETERANS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Concluded hearings on the Report of the Administration's Task Force to improve Health Care Delivery for our Nation's Veterans. Testimony was heard from Leo S. Mackay, Jr., Deputy Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs; David S.C. Chu, Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense; the following officials of the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care: Charles R. Anthony, Mack G. Fleming, Susan M. Schwartz, Robert W. Spanogle and Harry N. Walters, all Commissioners; and representatives of veterans organizations.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT

Committee on Ways and Means: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 2473, Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003.

BRIEFING—NSA OPERATIONS

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Technical and Tactical Intelligence met in executive session to receive a briefing on NSA Operations. The Subcommittee was briefed by departmental witnesses.